

15.1 Analyze an Issue: instruction families and a reasoned qualified position

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

KEY WORDS policy consequence • qualified thesis

Objective

Match an Issue response to its specific instruction rather than a fixed template; Address reasons, competing views or policy consequences when requested; Develop a qualified position with explained examples within 30 minutes.

Original public tasks and locally authored marking guidance. No official score is assigned.

1 Key knowledge and worked examples

policy consequence : An intended or unintended result relevant to judging a proposed rule.

qualified thesis : A position stating its limits or conditions rather than making an unsupported absolute claim.

The current standard GRE writing measure has one 30-minute Issue task. The issue and the instruction together define the response. Some instructions ask when a statement holds; some ask when a recommendation helps; others ask for the strongest challenge to your position. Identify the requested reasoning action before generating examples. A generic agree/disagree template can omit the central task.

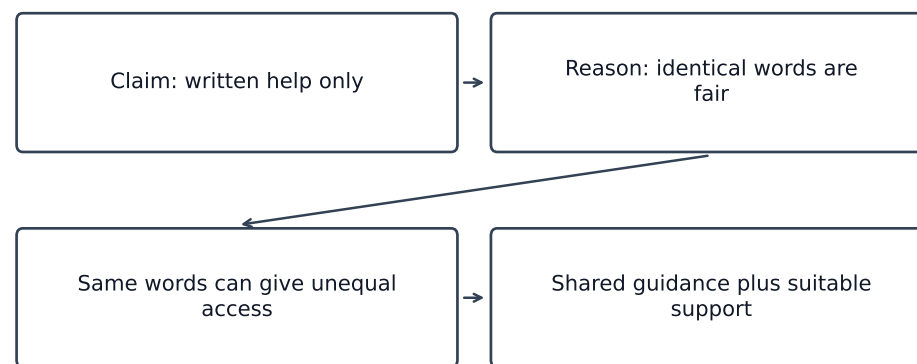
A two-view instruction requires engagement with both views, not just a chosen side. A claim-and-reason instruction requires evaluation of the claim and the stated justification separately. The conclusion may be reasonable while its reason is weak, or vice versa. Make the relationship explicit in the thesis and development rather than leaving the reader to infer it.

For a policy instruction, explain consequences and how they shape your view. Separate intended benefits from plausible unintended costs. Use concrete mechanisms and circumstances: who benefits, what resources are needed, where the recommendation may fail and what limit improves it. Hypothetical examples can illuminate reasoning when labelled as such; unsupported invented statistics should not be presented as measured evidence.

Use a flexible plan, not a required paragraph count. A suggested practice budget is four

minutes to interpret and outline, twenty-three to write and three to revise. Check task fit, development, logical organisation and clear language. An original classroom response is reviewed by a teacher; the local formative checks do not produce an official GRE writing score. Current Issue practice must not be relabelled as the retired Argument task.

Original claim-and-reason case: Claim: universities should let every student replace a laboratory requirement with independent reading. Reason: all meaningful learning comes from books. A qualified thesis might reject universal replacement while accepting reading as preparation. The reason overlooks learning from direct measurement, procedural errors and collaboration. Model development: “In a hypothetical introductory measurement course, a student may correctly describe uncertainty after reading but still misalign an instrument during use. A supervised trial exposes the difference between knowing a rule and applying it. Reading therefore supports the laboratory rather than always replacing it. A student with verified equivalent practical experience could reasonably receive an alternative task, so preserving a laboratory requirement need not mean ignoring individual circumstances.” This evaluates both the recommendation and its reason, gives a mechanism and introduces an explained exception.



Identical help is not equal access: pair shared guidance with suitable support

2 Practice

2.1 Original Issue prompt. Claim: “Public learning centres should provide help only through written guides.” Reason: “Giving every visitor identical information is the fairest policy.” Discuss how far you agree with both the claim and its reason. Explain circumstances and consequences that affect your position.

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Compare three instruction families using this issue: (a) assess when a recommendation works, (b) discuss both a claim and its stated reason, (c) address the strongest challenge to your own position. Write a different planning sentence for each. Explain why a fixed agree/disagree template could miss the task.
